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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/073,022	02/12/2002	Shinichi Kouzuma	32011-178431	3110

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EXAMINER

TRAN, ANH Q

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2819

DATE MAILED: 07/30/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/073,022

Applicant(s)

KOUZUMA, SHINICHI

Examiner

Anh Q. Tran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4-25 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1: ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- 2: ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- 3: ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wilford (6,020,762).

Regarding claim 1, Wilford shows a level shift circuit (Fig. 4) comprising:

A first transistor circuit (109) which conducts a first node (D) and a first power supply line (VDD) when a second node (C) is at a second power supply potential (ground) and does not conduct them when the second node is at a first power supply potential;

A second transistor circuit (105) which conducts the second node and the first power supply line when the first node is at the second power supply potential and does not conduct them when the first node is at the first power supply potential;

A third transistor circuit (103) which conducts the first node and the second power supply line when an input signal (102) is at a first input potential and does not conduct them when the input signal is at a second input potential;

A fourth transistor circuit (107) which conducts the second node and the second power supply line when the input signal is at a second input potential and does not conduct them when the input signal is at the first input potential; and

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A fifth transistor circuit (143) which switches a value of an inflow current or emission current of the second node or the first node according to a control signal (141), when the second node or the first node is conducted to both of the first power supply line and the second power supply line.

Regarding claim 2, Wilford shows the first and the second transistor are P-MOS transistors and the third and the fourth transistor are N-MOS transistors.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over 6,020,762).

Wilford discloses the claimed invention except for A second conductive type fifth transistor (143) one end of which is connected to the second power supply line and a control terminal of which inputs the control signal; and

A second conductive type sixth transistor (145) one end of which is connected to the other end of the fifth transistor, the other end of which is connected to the second node, and a control terminal of which inputs an inverted value of the input signal. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to switch location of the transistors, since it has been held that rearranging parts of an invention involves only routing skill in the art.

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Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Chow (5,781,026) discloses a level shifter having fifth transistors control by an input signal.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anh Q. Tran whose telephone number is 703-306-4507. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH (7:00-5:30) Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Tokar can be reached on 703-305-3493. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7724 for regular communications and 703-308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

Anh Tran
July 14, 2003

